AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph starting at page 2, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

To address these and other needs, the present invention provides a diagnostic assay and kit for detecting the presence of at least one biomarker indicative of intra-amniotic inflammation in a sample of amniotic fluid, comprising (A) mixing an adsorbent that binds at least one biomarker associated with intra-amniotic inflammation with a sample of amniotic fluid and then (B) monitoring the mixture for binding between said biomarker and the adsorbent, wherein the assay or kit detects at least one biomarker that is a calgranulin, particularly calgranulin A or calgranulin C. In one embodiment, the adsorbent is an antibody immobilized on a solid substrate. The assay or kit using an antibody may be an ELISA in which an enzyme-antibody conjugate used to detect biomarker immobilized on the solid substrate. In some embodiments, the adsorbent is immobilized on a probe and the biomarker is detected by laser desorption/ionization mass spectrometry. In these embodiments, the adsorbent preferably is a hydrophobic adsorbent, more particularly a ~~Ciphergen H4 probe or H50 probe~~ **CIPHERGEN H4 PROBE (hydrophobic adsorbent comprising C16 aliphatic hydrocarbon chain immobilized on silicon oxide) or H50 PROBE (hydrophobic adsorbent comprising a C9 aliphatic hydrocarbon chain attached to a phenyl ring that is immobilized on silicon oxide)**. In preferred embodiments, the assays and kits 8 additionally tests for the presence of at least one defensin in said sample of amniotic fluid. In particular, the defensin may be HNP-1 alpha-defensin 1 or HNP-2 (alpha-defensin 2).

Please replace paragraph starting at page 3, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The invention further provides a method for qualifying the risk of preterm delivery in a pregnant patient, comprising (A) providing a spectrum generated by subjecting a sample of amniotic fluid from the patient to mass spectroscopic analysis that includes profiling on a biologically-or chemically-derivatized affinity surface, and (B) putting the spectrum through pattern-recognition analysis that is keyed to at least one peak indicative of the presence of a calgranulin in the sample. Preferably the pattern-recognition analysis additionally is keyed to at least one peak indicative of a defensin. In a preferred embodiment, the pattern- recognition analysis is keyed to at least one of calgranulin A or calgranulin C and at least one of HNP-1 (alpha-defensin 1) or HNP-2 (alpha-defensin 2). The preferred affinity surface is a ~~Ciphergen H4 probe~~ **CIPHERGEN H4 PROBE** or ~~H50 probe~~ **H50 PROBE**. The method is particularly useful in identifying the risk of preterm delivery in patients which do not have a white blood cell count that is elevated out of the normal range.